RELIGION

FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCE

COURSE GUIDE

2001-2002

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

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DEPARTMENT OF RELIGION
UNDERGRADUATE COURSE GUIDE
2001-2002

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www.kcmetro.cc.mo.us/longview/socsci/philosophy/religion/symbols.htm

This course guide has been prepared months in advance of the 2001-2002 academic year and information contained herein is subject to change. Students are advised not to purchase any texts without the approval of the professor concerned.
Due to the renumbering of courses in the Department, students should consult the list of equivalent undergraduate courses in the back of the 2001-2002 undergraduate calendar.

FACULTY

A list of the full-time faculty follows below. All possess degrees from universities and/or schools of advanced studies that represent the best academic centres for the study of religion in North America and India. All have published books that have made a contribution to their particular fields of study. All have published in learned journals and have given papers at learned societies. They have also won a reputation among their students for being good teachers, concerned about the quality of instruction at Concordia University, as well as for being "available" and committed to the development of a more meaningful student life.

Full-Time Faculty:

Chair

Leslie Orr, Ph.D. (McGill)

Professors

Frederick Bird, Ph.D. (Graduate Theological Union)
Michel Despland, Th.D. (Harvard)
Jack Lightstone, Ph.D. (Brown)
Ira Robinson, Ph.D. (Harvard)
T.S. Rukmani, D.Litt., Ph.D. (Delhi University) ~ Chair in Hindu Studies

Associate Professors

Michael Oppenheim, Ph.D. (University of California)
Norma Joseph, PhD (Concordia)
Leslie Orr, Ph.D. (McGill)

Assistant Professors

Lynda Clarke, Ph.D. (McGill)
Norman Ravvin, Ph.D. (University of Toronto) - Chair in Quebec & Canadian Jewish Studies

INTRODUCTION TO THE DEPARTMENT

General Objectives:
The Department of Religion is dedicated to the academic study of religions and other social and cultural phenomena in so far as they have been influenced or affected by religions. We are interested in the comparative study of many religions. Although we do study how many religious traditions articulate and defend their own self-understandings, we treat these theologies and buddhologies academically and comparatively.

Nature of Religious Studies:
The academic study of religion is a multi-disciplinary enterprise. It involves the historical examination of religious movements, the literary analyses of their literatures, philosophical reflections on beliefs and teachings, the social scientific investigations of their rituals, practices, texts, and institutions, the psychological study of their participants and ethical inquiries regarding both their moral writings and social roles.

Correspondingly, the faculty in the department have been trained in a number of academic disciplines including history, sociology, anthropology, literary studies, philosophy, psychology and theology as well as in the study of particular religious traditions.

KNOWLEDGE OF TWO MAJOR RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS

The Department believes that every Major or Honours student in Religion or in Judaic Studies should possess, at time of graduation, a knowledge of at least two major religious traditions. For example, the student who is pursuing a Major in Judaic Studies will take some courses in a religious tradition other than Judaism. This basic principle reinforces the emphasis upon the centrality of the discipline of the History of Religions. A particular religious tradition can best be understood in the context of the general religious history of humankind.

DEPARTMENTAL PROGRAMMES

The Department of Religion offers at the undergraduate level: minors, majors and honours programmes in Religion and in Judaic Studies. The degree requirements for all of these programmes can be found below. We also offer several graduate programmes: an M.A. in the History and Philosophy of Religion, an M.A. in Judaic Studies, and a Ph.D. in Religion. For further information on our graduate programmes, please contact the graduate programme assistant at 848-2077.

Women and Religion:
As part of the Department of Religion's undergraduate curriculum, a concentration in **Women and Religion** is offered. A variety of special courses are included in the regular program for the BA major in Religion. Religion majors can focus on this area for either the primary or secondary concentration requirements.

The study of women and religion is a growing field in which the Department of Religion of Concordia University has long been a leader. This structured concentration solidifies our commitment to this field and enables us to prepare students in a systematic and consistent fashion. The concentration furthers the work of the department in that it will allow students to pursue course work from a comparative, cross-cultural and multi-tradition perspective. The study of the role of women in the history and practice of religion introduces our students to an exciting and vital area of study.

Degree Requirements:

60 B.A. Honours in Religion:

12 In a language related to thesis; or in a related discipline such as: Anthropology English Literature, History, Philosophy, Sociology, Theological Studies, Women's Studies.
6 RELI 211[6] or 213[6]
21 From area of primary concentration (see areas of concentration below)
6 From area of secondary concentration (see areas of concentration below)
6 RELI elective credits at 300 or 400 level
3 RELI 409[3]
6 RELI 410[6]

42 B.A. Major in Religion

6 RELI 211[6] or 213[6]
21 From area of primary concentration (see areas of concentration below)
6 From area of secondary concentration (see areas of concentration below)
6 RELI elective credits at 300 or 400 level
3 RELI 409[3]

30 Minor in Religion

6 RELI 211[6] or 213[6]
24 RELI elective credits (chosen in consultation with Departmental advisor)

48 B.A. Major in Judaic Studies

12 In Hebrew Language: HEBR 210[6], HEBR 250[6], RELI 401[3], 402[3]
6 RELI 211[6] or 213[6]
3 RELI 220[3]
9 Chosen from RELI 301[3], 326[3], 327[3], 328[3]
9 Chosen from RELI 329[3], 334[3], 335[3] ,337[3], 381[3], 391[3], 392[3], 394[3], 395[3], 397[3]
6 Chosen from RELI 223[3], 224 [3],302[3], 303[3], 304[3], 305[3], 306[3], 319[3], 340[3], 341[3], 342[3]
3 RELI 409[3]

Areas of Concentration:

A - Asian Religions (21 credits) - chosen from any of the following:
RELI 224[3] Introduction to Islam,
RELI 225[3] Introduction to Hinduism
RELI 226[3] Introduction to Buddhism

RELI 316[3] Medieval Islam
RELI 317[3] Islamic Mysticism
RELI 319[3] Modern Islam
RELI 340[3] Hindu Thought and Institutions of the Ancient Period
RELI 341[3] Hindu Thought & Institutions of the Classical Period
RELI 342[3] Hindu Thought and Institutions of the Medieval Period
RELI 344[3] Hindu Mysticism
RELI 345[3] Major Developments in Modern Hinduism
RELI 346[3] The Hindu Diaspora
RELI 347[3] Religion and the Arts in South & Southeast Asia
RELI 348[3] Religion and Society in South & Southeast Asia
RELI 349[3] Religions of China and Japan
RELI 350[3] Theravada Buddhism
RELI 364[3] Mahayana Buddhism
RELI 383[3] Women and Religion: Islam
RELI 384[3] Women and Religion: Hinduism
RELI 385[3] Women and Religion: Buddhism

B - Christianity (21 credits)

3 RELI 223[3] Introduction to Christianity
9 Chosen from RELI 301[3] Biblical Studies I: The Hebrew Bible, RELI 302[3] Biblical Studies II: Christian Origins, RELI 303[3] History of Christian Thought I, RELI 304[3] History of Christian Thought II, RELI 306[3] Christian Social History II
9 Christian Studies elective credits at the 300 or 400 level

C - Judaism (21 credits)

3 RELI 220[3] Introduction to the History and Religion of the Jews
3 RELI 301[3] Biblical Studies I: The Hebrew Bible
6 Chosen from: RELI 326[3] Ancient Judaism
RELI 327[3] Medieval Jewish Thought & Institutions
RELI 328[3] Modern Judaism
9 Judaic Studies elective credits at the 300 or 400 level

D - Women and Religion (21 credits)

3 RELI 233[3] Introduction to Women and Religion
6 Chosen from: RELI 381[3] Women and Religion: Judaism
RELI 382[3] Women and Religion: Christianity
RELI 383[3] Women and Religion: Islam
RELI 384[3] Women and Religion: Hinduism
RELI 385[3] Women and Religion: Buddhism
RELI 386[3] Native North American Women & their Religious Traditions
RELI 391[3] Women and Jewish History I
RELI 392[3] Women and Jewish History II
9 Chosen from: RELI 372[3] The Human Body in Religious Faith and Practice
RELI 380[3] Sexuality in the History of Religion
RELI 387[3] Goddesses and Religious Images of Women

RELI 388[3] Religious Women: Leaders, Models and Rebels
RELI 389[3] Women as Ritual Experts
RELI 405[3] Approaches to the Study of Women & Religion:Adv. Seminar
RELI 406[3] Feminist Hermeneutics & Scripture
3 Women and Religion elective credits at the 300 or 400 level

Southern Asia Studies:

The Department of Religion participates with History, Political Science and several other departments in the Southern Asia Studies Programme which offers a major and a minor as follows:

MAJOR (42 credits):
9 credits History 261 and Religion 213
3 credits History 364, 365, 393 or 461
6 credits Political Science 336, 342, 482
6 credits Religion 224, 225, 226, 340, 341, 342, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 350, 384
18 credits Chosen from any relevant courses in the core disciplines (not already counted towards the above requirements) or courses dealing with Southern Asia in the Departments of Economics, Education, English, Geography, Sociology/Anthropology orFaculties of Fine Arts and Commerce and Administration.

MINOR (30 credits):
9 credits History 261 and Religion 213
6 credits History 364, 365, 393 or 461
Political Science 336, 424, 482
Economics 311, 319
6 credits any from Religion 224, 225, 226, 340, 341, 342, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 350, 364, 384; or FMST 335
9 elective credits from any courses dealing primarily with Southern Asia, and Special Topics courses in any discipline with a Southern Asia theme or focus. Other courses may be substituted for many of the above with the Programme Advisor's permission.

Please see the Undergraduate Calendar for further details on the Southern Asia Studies Programme.

For more information call:

Dr. John Hill, Department of History at 848-2435 or
Dr. Leslie Orr, Department of Religion at 848-2066

SERVICES AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS

Student Advising
Students who have questions concerning their programme of study or need assistance relating to academic difficulties can contact the Department either by phone (848-2065) or email religion@vax2.concordia.ca and make an appointment to meet with the undergraduate advisor.

Undergraduate Listserve
Religion students and students taking one or more Religion courses have the option of being added to the Religion Undergraduate Listserve. This listserve helps to keep students informed of upcoming events, guest speakers and academic deadlines.

Department WebPage
Visit the Department's webpage and find information on the various courses offered, course outlines, faculty research interests, guest lectures and conferences, information on our graduate programmes plus much more.
(http://artsci-ccwin.concordia.ca/religion/reli.html)

THE BOYD SINYARD AWARD

Each year the Boyd Sinyard award is given to the outstanding graduating student in Religion. The award is named after the first chairman of the Department of Religion at Sir George Williams University.

CONCORDIA RELIGION STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION (CRSA)

If you are studying within the Department of Religion (i.e. if you are an Honours, Major, Minor or just taking a course offered by the department), you are a member of CRSA. CRSA is a student administered organization dedicated to fostering community and expanding the educational experience of all Religion students. Each year the executive branch of CRSA (five students elected to plan and administer CRSA affairs) offers Religion students the chance to meet each other and faculty at various social gatherings, as well as the opportunity to enliven their education by attending CRSA sponsored lectures given by learned academics and religious thinkers from all parts of the world. CRSA members are urged to take advantage of the student lounge located in the basement of annex R (2050 Mackay). This is a place where students can study, hang out or use the free phone. If you would like more information about CRSA, leave a message in our mailbox at the Department of Religion.

RELI 224/1 - A (3 credits) May 07 – June 20 M.W. 1230-1500
INTRODUCTION TO ISLAM
Instructor: Perwaiz Hayat

This course introduces students to the life of the prophet Muhammad, and to the teachings of the Qur'an. The historical context of the origins of Islam in Mecca and Medina is studied up to the end of the period of the first four Caliphs. The main emphasis is on a thematic analysis of the contents of the Qur'an.
NOTE: Students who have received credit for RELI 313 may not take this course for credit.

RELI 339/1 - A (3 credits) May 07 - June 20 T.J. 1530-1800
IMPACT OF THE HOLOCAUST ON RELIGIOUS THOUGHT
Instructor: Michael Oppenheim

This course will explore some of the ways that Jewish thought and, secondarily, Christian thought have responded to the destruction of European Jewry, **the** Shoah or Holocaust.. Although unimaginable and unthinkable, they have felt compelled to confront it. We will look at the effort of philosophers and theologians to access the magnitude of the event, the challenges that it poses for Jewish and Christian life, tradition, and thought, and the responses required to meet its challenges. Among the thinkers that will be studied are: Martin Buber, Abraham Heschel, Eliezer Berkovits, Richard Rubenstein, Elie Wiesel, Emil Fackenheim, Irving Greenberg, Alice Eckardt, and Rosemary Ruether.
NOTE: Students who have received credit for RELI 358 may not take this course for credit.

RELI 368/1 - A (3 credits) May 07 - June 20 T.J. 1230-1500
RELIGION IN NATIVE TRADITIONS
Instructor: Brian Deer/Louise Johnston

This overview looks at the many diverse religious traditions of the First Nations populations in Canada. The course examines the sacred stories, ceremonial patterns, life cycle rituals, and religious activities in their varied expressions. Consideration is given to the historical interaction of native government with religious practices.

RELI 398G/1 - E (3 credits) July 03 - August 13 M.W. 0930-1200
SELECTED TOPICS IN RELIGION: HINDI
Instructor: Diana Dimitrova

An introductory course in the Hindi language. This course will enable students with no knowledge of Hindi to read, write and express themselves in Hindi. At the end of the course, the vocabulary acquired by the students will comprise about 400 words and expressions.

RELI 398W/1 - A (3 credits) May 07 - June 20 M.W. 1230-1500
SELECTED TOPICS IN RELIGION: ANCIENT MYTHS/CONTEMPORARY SIGNIFICANCE
Instructor: Maria Mamfredis

In this course we will investigate different theories, both ancient and contemporary, from philosophical and allegorical to anthropological, psychological, structuralist and contextual, of myth and its function. We will then examine a variety of myths ranging from the ancient to the contemporary world, oral and written, but also those myths which are expressed in visual representations. We will first examine these myths in their own context in order to see how they interact with the particular communities within which they exist. Then we will use these myths in order to explore and better understand the theories we have already studied. Finally we will examine the existence and use of myths in our own contemporary context(s).

RELI 211/3 - AA (6 credits) W. 1800-2015
UNDERSTANDING RELIGION
Instructor: Maria Mamfredis

A systematic and topical introduction to the study of religion. The purpose of the course is to enable the student to articulate and investigate questions about the meaning and nature of religion. Problems discussed include the elements of religious experience, forms of religious expression and interpretation, religious communities and practices, and the questions raised by the contemporary interfaith dialogue. Materials are taken from a variety of religious traditions.

RELI 213/3 - A (6 credits) M.W. 1615-1730
RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS OF THE WORLD
Instructor: TBA

A historical and comparative overview of the major religious traditions of the world: Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, and Chinese religions, this course examines the religious activities and experiences of both women and men with these religions.

RELI 220/ 2- A (3 credits) M.W. 1015-11:30
INTRODUCTION TO THE HISTORY & RELIGION OF THE JEWS
Instructor: Ira Robinson

This course will examine the history of Jews and of Judaism from ancient times until the present. It will emphasize the continuities, changes and interrelationships with respect to Jewish social, religious and intellectual life through the ages. It will also carefully examine the varieties of belief and practice in contemporary Jewish life.
NOTE: Students who have received credit for RELI 222 may not take this course for credit.

RELI 223/2 - A (3 credits) M.W. 1445-1600
INTRODUCTION TO CHRISTIANITY
Instructor: TBA

A basic introduction to Christianity as one of the major religious traditions of the world, this course provides an overall examination of the enduring structures of Christian belief, its central symbols and rituals; it also indicates how they are articulated in both the Eastern and Western traditions.

RELI 224/2 -A (3 credits) T.J. 1615-1730
INTRODUCTION TO ISLAM
Instructor: TBA

This course introduces students to the life of the prophet Muhammad, and to the teachings of the Qur'an. The historical context of the origins of Islam in Mecca and Medina is studied up to the end of the period of the first four Caliphs. The main emphasis is on a thematic analysis of the contents of the Qur'an.
NOTE: Students who have taken RELI 313 may not take this course for credit.

RELI 225/2 - A (3 credits) T.J. 1145-1300
INTRODUCTION TO HINDUISM
Instructor: Shrinivas Tilak

This course introduces students to the history and evolution of Hinduism from its early beginnings to the present. It also provides a socio-historic-cultural understanding of many of the practices and beliefs of present-day Hindus by relating them to the development and growth of rituals and ideas such as temples, festivals, pilgrimage and other institutions as well as concepts like Dharma, Karma and Moksha that have kept alive the Hindu faith and in turn have undergone many changes throughout the ages.
NOTE: Students who have received credit for this topic under a RELI 298 number may not take this course for credit.

RELI 226/2 - AA (3 credits) W. 2030-2245
INTRODUCTION TO BUDDHISM
Instructor: TBA

This course introduces students to the life and teachings of the Buddha, and provides an overview of the development of the characteristic features of the Theravada, Mahayana, and Vajrayana traditions of Buddhism. Special attention is given to the practices and institutions that are found throughout the Buddhist world-such as reverence for the Buddha, support for the order of monks and nuns, pilgrimage, and meditation-and to developments in contemporary Buddhism.
NOTE: Students who have received credit for RELI 350 or 364 may not take this course for credit.

RELI 233/2 - A (3 credits) T.J. 1015-1130
INTRODUCTION TO WOMEN AND RELIGION
Instructor: Norma Joseph

This introduction to the particular problems and issues in the study of women and religion uses case studies from various non-Western traditions. The course presents a survey of the different levels of participation, the complex ritual activities, and the intriguing divine imagery associated with women that are found in many religious traditions. Questions pertaining to the contemporary feminist discourse on such topics as witchcraft, matriarchy, and goddess religions are also explored.

RELI 298C/4 - 01 (3 credits) T.J 1315-1430
SELECTED TOPICS IN RELIGION
SPECIAL SUBJECT: ENCOUNTERING RELIGIONS
Instructor: TBA

This course serves as an introduction to some of the religions of today's world, and explores several contemporary contexts where people of diverse religious backgrounds come into contact with one another.

RELI 298D/2 - AA (3 credits) T.18:00-20:15
SELECTED TOPICS IN RELIGION
SPECIAL SUBJECT: PEACE STUDIES
Instructor: J. Gavin

This course aims to introduce you to the study of peace, and enable you to think critically about contemporary problems which involve conflict. The search for peace has proven to be a complex endeavour and there are no easy solutions that can be applied to any given situation. Each people, each place and each specific time demands creativity, courage and determination to achieve a more civil and livable society. But certainly principles, strategies and central themes can be learned from the study of the past.

In this course using an interdisciplinary approach, four professors, each representing different disciplines, each in a two or three week module, will examine with you the methodologies and contributions their respective disciplines make to the study of peace. By means of specific examples and case studies, the role of values, cultures and ideologies in the attainment of peace will be explored with you.

NOTE: Students who have received credit for INTE 333 or INTE 499A or LUCC 333 or LUCC 499A may not take this course for credit. This course is crosslisted with LUCC 298C, INTE 298C, POLI 298A, THEO 298P.

RELI 298P/4 - AA (3 credits) T. 18:00-20:15
SELECTED TOPICS IN RELIGION
SPECIAL SUBJECT: CULTS & RELIGIOUS CONTROVERSY
Instructor: TBA

This course takes a sociological and historical approach towards understanding new religious movements (NRMs), popularly known as "cults". The course examines the reasons for their controversial status in society, and undertakes a survey of the beliefs, rituals, leadership, membership, recruitment strategies, and social organization of a number of specific NRMs.

RELI 301/2 - A (3 credits) M.W.1315-1430
BIBLICAL STUDIES I: THE HEBREW BIBLE
Instructor: Maria Mamfredis

An introduction to the methods and results of biblical scholarship with regard to the history, culture, and religion of ancient Israel. Particular attention is given to the major religious affirmations and theological concepts of the Hebrew Bible that have become central in the subsequent development of Judaism.

RELI 302/4 - A (3 credits) T.J. 1015-1130
BIBLICAL STUDIES II: CHRISTIAN ORIGINS
Instructor: Michel Despland

A critical survey of Christian origins, this course focuses on New Testament literature and considers historical setting, history of text, religious and cultural significance. Attention is paid to extra-canonical literature and other relevant sources.

RELI 303/2 – A (3 credits) M.W 1145-1300
HISTORY OF CHRISTIAN THOUGHT I
Instructor: Michel Despland

Following the approach set forward by Troeltsch (The Social Teachings of the Christian Churches), the course will relate Christian doctrines to their popular contexts (individual and social). Particular attention will be paid to the conflicts between hierarchy and the principles of equality.
Possible Text: Saint Augustine, Confessions

RELI 310/2 - A (3 credits) T.J. 1315-1430
CONTEMPORARY ETHICAL ISSUES: PERSONAL
Instructor: Norman Ravvin

Ethics have become one of the ways contemporary men and women approach what have always been thought of as religious concerns. Through the treatment of others, including animals and the environment, we reveal how we feel about ourselves, as well as the rest of the world. In this way, a study of ethics helps us explore relationships of all kinds, and the way these relationships can be meaningful. This course will look at ethics in the context of religious thought, but also in relation to feminism, animal rights, the environment, and politics.
NOTE: Students who have received credit for RELI 331 may not take this course for credit.

RELI 312/4 - A (3 credits) M.W. 1145-1300
CONTEMPORARY ETHICAL ISSUES: SOCIETAL
Instructor: Fred Bird

Focus for 2001-2002: SOCIETAL JUSTICE
This course will consider a number of topics related to the general theme of social justice as well as poverty, underdevelopment, fair punishment and sustainable development. The course will consider the following issues: the problems of world hunger, poverty, environmental degradation, over-consumption, and increasing inequality. It will review the justice and injustice faced by students,employees, and citizens. The course will review the position of various religious groups, philosophical traditions, and idealogical movements regarding these topics. It will explore what interested individuals and groups have done and can do about these issues. Students will be expected to write several papers on selected topics. They will be expected to set forth and defend their own positions taking into account the views of those likely to differ with them.
NOTE: Students who have received credit for Reli 332 may not take this course for credit.

RELI 319/4 - A (3 credits) T.J. 1445-1600
MODERN ISLAM
Instructor: TBA

A study of Islamic religious and social thought in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Islamic liberalism, traditionalism, and fundamentalism are compared and contrasted.

RELI 327/4- A (3 credits) M.W. 1015-1130
MEDIEVAL JEWISH THOUGHT AND INSTITUTIONS
Instructor: Ira Robinson

This course will explore the social, religious and intellectual history of Jews in the medieval period. In so doing, it will attempt to understand the development of Jewish history and thought both in terms of its dynamic relationships with the heritage of ancient Judaism as well as with the civilisations of medieval Christianity and Islam.

RELI 335A/4 - A (3 credits) T.J. 1315-1430
TOPICS IN CANADIAN JEWISH STUDIES
SPECIAL SUBJECT: RELIGION, HISTORY, POLITICS, AND LITERATURE
Instructor: Norman Ravvin

By looking at a few key texts in this field, we will examine the way Canadian Jewish identity has changed over the course of this century, as well as considering the varieties of identity that exist today. By focusing on key topics, like history, politics, and literature, students will be able to focus in some depth on the aspect of Canadian Jewish life that most interests them.

RELI 338/4 - AA (3 credits) M. 1800-2015
(cross-listed with Hist 298A/4)
HOLOCAUST: HISTORICAL CIRCUMSTANCES
Instructor: TBA

This course examines the historical circumstances that made possible the systematic destruction of European Jewry in the years 1939-45, as well as the process of destruction and the Jewish and world responses to that destruction.
NOTE: Students who have received credit for RELI 357 may not take this course for credit.

RELI 347/4 – A (3 credits) M.W. 1315-1430
RELIGION AND THE ARTS IN SOUTH AND SOUTHEAST ASIA
Instructor: TBA

This introduction to the religious art of South and Southeast Asia makes special reference to Hindu and Buddhist architecture, sculpture, and painting. The course examines the ways in which sacred art is related to myth and symbol, religious values and goals, ritual, religious experience, and social and political realities.
NOTE: Students who have received credit for Reli 318 may not take this course for credit.

RELI 349/4 - A (3 credits) T.J. 1615-1730
RELIGIONS OF CHINA AND JAPAN
Instructor: TBA

This course examines the history of the religious life of the people of China and Japan, exploring the interaction of Confucian, Taoist, Buddhist, and Shinto practices and beliefs.
NOTE: Students who have received credit for RELI 316 may not take this course for credit.

RELI 350/4 - A (3 credits) M.W. 1145-1300
THERAVADA BUDDHISM
Instructor: Shrinivas Tilak

This course examines the early history, doctrine, institutions, and practices of Buddhism in India, and follows the development of Theravada Buddhism in the countries of Southeast Asia up to the present day.
NOTE: Students who have received credit for RELI 314 may not take this course for credit.

RELI 371/2 - AA (3 credits) J. 1800-2015
RELIGION AND HEALING
Instructor: TBA

An examination of the interaction between religious conceptions and practices on the one hand and healing arts on the other. The course considers such phenomena as: shamanism; healing and Christian shrines; native healing rites; folk medicine of the Third World; modern spiritual healing groups; the contemporary dialogue between established forms of medicine, psychiatry, and religion in the twentieth century.

RELI 372/4 – A (3 credits) T.J. 1145-1300
THE HUMAN BODY IN RELIGIOUS FAITH AND PRACTICE
Instructor: Leslie Orr

A study of religious attitudes to the human body, and of the body as a foundation for religious symbolism, ritual, and experience. We will explore such themes as: the incarnation or embodiment of divine being; ritual and mystical transformations of the human body; divine and human beings as gendered bodies; and religious understandings of and the regulation or ritualization of such physical activities and processes as eating, sex, clothing, cleansing, combat, healing, birth, death, and bodily pain and pleasure. The course will examine these problems with reference to specific religious traditions, including Hinduism, Jainism, Buddhism, Taoism, Islam, Christianity, several tribal religions, and contemporary women's spirituality.

RELI 378/2 - A (3 credits) M.W. 1015-1130
DEATH AND DYING
Instructor: TBA

This comparative study examines conceptions of death and dying among the major religious traditions. Attention is paid as well to exploring contemporary notions of death and dying both in so far as we are still informed by traditional conceptions and to the extent that, for many, such notions have lost their cogency.
NOTE: Students who have received credit for Reli 370 may not take this course for credit.

RELI 378/4 - A (3 credits) M.W. 1315-1430
DEATH AND DYING
Instructor: TBA

This comparative study examines conceptions of death and dying among the major religious traditions. Attention is paid as well to exploring contemporary notions of death and dying both in so far as we are still informed by traditional conceptions and to the extent that, for many, such notions have lost their cogency.
NOTE: Students who have received credit for Reli 370 may not take this course for credit.

RELI 380/2 - A (3 credits) M.W. 1315-1430
RELIGION AND SEXUALITY
Instructor: Donald Boisvert

This course examines, from comparative and historical perspectives, the interplay between religion and sexuality. It will look at: 1) the development of attitudes towards sexuality within diverse religious traditions, and 2) religious manifestations of sexuality. Topics will include, among others, human reproduction, gender roles and identity (specifically with respect to women), birth control, abortion, celibacy, sexual variance and homosexuality. Other topics may be selected according to the interests of the class. Lectures and small group work will constitute the major teaching methods. As well, there may be some in-class presentations by students. Readings will be assigned.
NOTE: Students who have received credit for RELI 335 may not take this course for credit.

RELI 382/4 - A (3 credits) T.J.1445-1600
WOMEN AND RELIGION:CHRISTIANITY
Instructor: TBA

The focus of the course is the role of women and the conflicting patterns of gender construction in the history of Christianity. Through a critical use of primary and secondary sources, both visual and textual, the course explores the sources of women's power and subordination in order to illuminate the relationship between gender and the Christian tradition.

RELI 383/2 - AA (3 credits) T.1800-2015
WOMEN AND RELIGION: ISLAM
Instructor: Lynda Clarke

The course explores past and present debates among Muslims about the ideal status of women in Islam. The historical and textual backgound – the material of the debate – is examined first. The class will then consider how a variety of discourses, ranging from conservative to Muslim-feminist, treat and manipulate this material.

RELI 392/2 - A (3 credits) J. 1445-1730
WOMEN AND JEWISH HISTORY II
Instructor: Norma Joseph

This course examines the lives and experiences of Jewish women in the modern period. The immigration to North America and the subsequent development of the Jewish community provides the framework for investigating Jewish women's contribution to and encounter with modern Jewish life. The development of Jewish feminism and the consequent changes amongst the different denominations completes this survey.

RELI 398C/4 - AA (3 credits) M. 1800-2015
GOD'S DEATH, STRUGGLE AND HUMAN MEANING
Instructor: Marc Lalonde

The purpose of this course is to explore the theme of "the death of God"as a lens that allows us to focus on some of the vital characteristics of modern Western thought, life, history, and art. Specifically, by attending to the rejection or eclipse of religious reality and truth within the 20th century, we will engage some of the major issues that have motivated, shaped, and complicated the contemporary world. Through a comparative examination of "the death of God "idea in philosophy, social thought, theology, and literature, this course will feature concerns such as secularisation and the disenchantment of the world; the crisis of metaphysical reason and morality; the predominance of instrumental reason and utilitarian values; the threat of nihilism; the prospect of atheism; the critique of Christianity; and the search for religious alternatives. In effect, this course will chart the various expressions of, and responses to "the death of God' from within the ongoing struggle for human meaning in a post-metaphysical, post-Christian, post-modern cultural context.
NOTE: This course is crosslisted as LUCC 398L, INTE 398L, and THEO 398L

RELI 398K/2 - AA (3 credits) T. 2030-2245
SELECTED TOPICS IN RELIGION
SPECIAL SUBJECT: RELIGION AND FILM
Instructor: Norman Ravvin

How do religious ideas translate on film? When a religious story or book is filmed, what transformations take place in the process? In what way is film a religious experience? These are some of the questions we will ask as we look at both religious stories and the way they are filmed by well-known film makers. Course texts will include a series of films.

RELI 398N/2- A (3 credits) M.W.1615-1730
SELECTED TOPICS IN RELIGION
SPECIAL SUBJECT: WITCHCRAFT, MAGIC AND RELIGION
Instructor: Maria Mamfredis

In this course we will approach the study of magic, witchcraft and religion from a number of perspectives. We will begin with a review of the history of the academic study of the subject and an examination of whether the different explanations and definitions provided by scholars for magic, witchcraft and religion have led to a better understanding or misunderstanding of these. We will then explore a variety of practices which have been labelled as witchcraft and/or magic, beginning with examples from the ancient world, to indigenous cultures, Europe in the Middle Ages and concluding with contemporary movements. The first goal will be to understand how different cultures understand and explain the presence of witches, magicians and sorcerers in their midst. The second goal will be to understand how the witches, magicians and sorcerers understand themselves. We will conclude the course with a re-examination of the evidence with the aim of better understanding the similarities and/or differences between witchcraft and magic on the one hand and religion on the other.

RELI 398R/2 - A (3 credits) T. 1445-1730
SELECTED TOPICS IN RELIGION
SPECIAL SUBJECT: VEDA AND UPANISHADS
Instructor: Shrinivas Tilak

This introduction to the religious concepts, practices, and wisdom of ancient India is based on the literature of the Vedic period, including the Upanishads. The course examines the contribution of various aspects of the Vedic tradition to the development of Hinduism, and explores the interaction among religions in the ancient period.
NOTE: Students who have received credit for RELI 320 or RELI 340 may not take this course for credit.

RELI 398S/4 - A (3 credits) M.W. 1445-1600
SELECTED TOPICS IN RELIGION
SPECIAL SUBJECT: RAMMOHUN ROY TO GANDHI
Instructor: Shrinivas Tilak

This course explores how leading modern Hindu thinkers from Rammohun Roy to Mahatma Gandhi sought to harmonize such contemporary values as social welfare, equality, humanism, and the universality of spiritual experience with parallel antecedents in older patterns of Hinduism preserved in Sanskrit texts.
NOTE: Students who have received credit for RELI 345 may not take this course for credit.

RELI 398T/4 – A (3 credits) W. 1445-1730
SELECTED TOPICS IN RELIGION
SPECIAL SUBJECT: GOD, CHAOS AND ZEN:
RECONCILING SCIENCE AND RELIGION IN THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD
Instructor: William Byers

Science is important to all of us whether we realize it or not. It affects, directly or indirectly, almost everything in our day-to-day lives. But, more importantly, it has determined the way in which we think, the way we see the world, our very consciousness itself. In this course we shall examine the way in which our consciousness has been affected by science and technology. We shall do this by examining our own minds and ideas in order to uncover the myths and unconscious assumptions we make about ourselves and the world around us.
NOTE: This course will not require the student to have any formal background in science or mathematics.

RELI 398V/4 – A (3 credits) T.J. 1315-1430
SELECTED TOPICS IN RELIGION
SPECIAL SUBJECT: JAINISM
Instructor: TBA

This course explores one of the most ancient and important religions of India, Jainism. Among the various aspects of this tradition that will be examined are: philosophical notions about the nature of the self, karma, and liberation; the ways of life of the Jain laity, as well as that of the order of monks and nuns; interactions between Jainism and other Indian religious traditions; and the history of the development of Jain communities with diverse practices, in different regions of India. A special focus of the course will be the Jain doctrine of non-injury (ahimsa), and its significance in recent history and in the contemporary world.

RELI 409/2 - A (3 credits) T.J. 1145-1300
METHODOLOGY AND THE STUDY OF RELIGION
Prerequisite: Permission of the Department
Instructor: Michael Oppenheim

This course will explore the history, main features, contemporary trends and challenges to the academic discipline of the study of religion. Among other questions, we will ask: Why and how did people study religion? What did they mean by the term "religion"? How did the study of religion relate to other disciplines and to the intellectual history of modern Western society? What is post-modernism and how does it affect our understanding and study of religion?

RELI 498B/2 – AA (3 credits) T. 1800-2015
ADVANCED TOPICS IN RELIGION
SPECIAL SUBJECT: MODERN JEWISH PHILOSOPHY
Instructor: Michael Oppenheim

This course will explore some of the most significant directions in modern Jewish philosophy. The philosophers and areas to be studied are the sources for many of the

constructive discussions of Jewish philosophy that are found in the contemporary period. The subjects will include: philosophers of dialogue or speech (Martin Buber and Franz Rosenzweig), Emmanuel Levinas and his contribution to post-modern Jewish philosophy, and the challenges and insights of feminist Jewish philosophy.

This course is a seminar-format course in which both upper-level undergraduate and graduate students will be participating.

RELI 498C/4 – AA (3 credits) J. 18:00-20:15
ADVANCED TOPICS IN RELIGION
SPECIAL SUBJECT: WOMEN AND BUDDHISM
Instructor: Leslie Orr

This course will explore the situation, activities, and experiences of women within Buddhism. We will examine this topic from an historical perspective, looking at the circumstances of women in early Buddhism and tracing subsequent developments in India, Southeast Asia, East Asia, and the Tibetan/Himalayan region. We will also consider the situation of contemporary Buddhist women, both in traditionally Buddhist countries and in the West. The goals of the course are: (1) to produce a better understanding of the history and of the current situation of women in Asia, (2) to encourage reflection on the ways in which gender, culture, religious ideologies, and religious institutions are inter-related, in Asian societies and in our own society, and (3) to examine the value of different approaches and methods in the study of women and religion.

This course is a seminar-format course in which both upper-level undergraduate and graduate students will be participating.

RELI 498H/4 AA (3 credits) T. 1800-2015
ADVANCED TOPICS IN RELIGION
SPECIAL SUBJECT: CHRISTIANITY SINCE 1600
Instructor: Michel Despland

The course starts with reviewing the situation that led to the establishment of separate Catholic and Protestant confessions and the rise of ideals of toleration. It examines the manner in which the churches coped with diversity in their midst and then how they took on a role of social responsibility. Attitudes toward women, education of children, poverty, missions and slavery are surveyed. The final section will look at the encounters with other religions.

This course is a seminar-format course in which both upper-level undergraduate and graduate students will be participating.

RELI 498M/4 – AA (3 credits) W. 2030-2245
ADVANCED TOPICS IN RELIGION
SPECIAL SUBJECT: EARLY RABBINIC LITERATURE
Instructor: Jack Lightstone

This course will attempt to examine the character and variety of early rabbinic literature, produced by the early rabbinic guild between the 2nd and 6th centuries CE. Of special concern will be the analysis of these texts as a reflection of and evidence for the development of the "professional expertise" which characterize the members of that professional guild who called themselves the rabbis in the late Roman and Persian eriods. The course will also attempt to place that expertise and the rabbinic guild within the social context of the Jewish communities in the Levant and Mesopotamia of the period in question. During the course, we shall examine sample texts culled from: Mishnah, Tosefta, Halakic Midrash, Aggadic Midrash, the Palestinian Talmud, and the Babylonian Talmud.

This course is a seminar-format course in which both upper-level undergraduate and graduate students will be participating.

RELI 498Q/4 – AA (3 credits) W. 1800-2015
ADVANCED TOPICS IN RELIGION
SPECIAL SUBJECT: REFORM JUDAISM
Instructor: Ira Robinson

This course will examine the history of the Reform movement in Judaism from its nineteenth century origins until the present. It will present Reform in the context of the major changes in the social and legal position of the Jews in modern times, and will situate Reform in the context of Judaic responses to modernity. It will, finally, explore the contemporary phenomenon of the Reform movement in the context of contemporary North American Jewry.

This course is a seminar-format course in which both upper-level undergraduate and graduate students will be participating.

RELI 498X/4 – AA (3 credits) M. 18:00-20:15
ADVANCED TOPICS IN RELIGION
SPECIAL SUBJECT: GNOSTICISM
Instructor: Maria Mamfredis

We will begin this course with a discussion of Gnosticism as a concept and explore some of the theories as to its origins in the ancient world. In particular we will try to understand it as a response to its environment and as an answer to questions of theodicy both within Judaism and Christianity. In the process we will read and try to come to terms with a number of the Nag Hamadi Gnostic texts. We will then continue with a discussion of present day Gnosticism, both at religions which can be identified in some way as Gnostic as well as at those religions within which Gnosticism appears as an influencing factor. Finally we will conclude the course with a discussion of the presence of Gnostic concepts and influences in popular culture.

Department of Religion - Timetable 2001-2002

Fall 2001

FALL	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1015-1130	RELI 220 RELI 378	RELI 233	RELI 220 RELI 378	RELI 233	
1145 - 1300	RELI 303	RELI 225 RELI 409	RELI 303	RELI 225 RELI 409	
1315 - 1430	RELI 301 RELI 380	RELI 310	RELI 301 RELI 380	RELI 310	
1445 - 1600	RELI 223	RELI 398R (until 17:30)	RELI 223	RELI 392 (until 17:30)	
1615 - 1730	RELI 213 RELI 398N	RELI 224	RELI 213 RELI 398N	RELI 224	
1800 - 2015		RELI 298D RELI 383 RELI 498B	RELI 211	RELI 371	
2030-2245		RELI 398K	RELI 226		

WINTER	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1015 – 1130	RELI 327	RELI 302	RELI 327	RELI 302	
1145 – 1300	RELI 312 RELI 350	RELI 372	RELI 312 RELI 350	RELI 372	
1315 – 1430	RELI 347 RELI 378	RELI 298C RELI 335A RELI 398V	RELI 347 RELI 378	RELI 298C RELI 335A RELI 398V	
1445 – 1600	RELI 398S	RELI 319 RELI 382	RELI 398S RELI 398T (until 17:30)	RELI 319 RELI 382	
1615 – 1730		RELI 349		RELI 349	
1800-2015	RELI 338 RELI 398C RELI 498X	RELI 298P RELI 498H	RELI 498Q	RELI 498C	
2030-2245			RELI 498M		